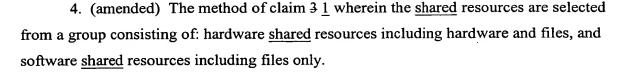
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

- 1. (amended) A method of adding a component into an- a multi-component electronic device, the multi-component electronic device providing a set of shared resources having types and version numbers, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) determining a required <u>shared</u> resource list of types and version numbers of <u>shared</u> resources required by the component <u>and other components of the multi-component electronic device</u>;
- (b) attaching to the component a link to the required shared resource list-to the component;
- (c) executing a loader program <u>upon installation of the component</u> to compare the required <u>shared</u> resource list with the <u>predetermined</u> set of <u>shared</u> resources <u>provided by</u> the multi-component electronic device; <u>and</u>:
  - (i) when the entire required <u>shared</u> resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of <u>shared</u> resources <u>provided</u> by the <u>multi-component</u> electronic device, adding the component to the multi-component electronic device; and
  - (ii) when less than the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device, determining the types and version numbers of the missing shared resources and searching for the missing shared resources according to a predefined search strategy; and installing the missing shared resources on the multi-component electronic device.
- 2. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the component is selected from a group consisting of: a hardware components. including hardware and files, and resources including files only.
- 3. (amended) The method of claim 1 including the step of (c)(iii) when a missing shared resource is not found in the search strategy, providing a notification to the user of the type and version of the missing shared resources not found.



- 5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the predefined search strategy begins the search with a directory of a source of the component.
- 6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the predefined search strategy includes searching at least one predetermined Internet location.
  - 7. (amended) The method of claim 1 including further the step of:
- (c)(iii) when a missing <u>shared</u> resource found in the search strategy is a <u>shared</u> resource having a type but not a version identical with a corresponding <u>shared</u> resource in the set of <u>shared</u> resources, adding the missing <u>shared</u> resource to the multi-component electronic device without removing the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource.
- 8. (amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource is in a common directory and the new <u>shared</u> resource is placed in a directory unique to the shared resource.
  - 9. (amended) The method of claim 1 including further the steps of:
- (d) determining upward compatibility between different version numbers of shared resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a shared resource of a later version number fully supports the features of a shared resource with an earlier version number;
  - (e) linking the information about the compatibility to the shared resources;
- (f) when a missing <u>shared</u> resource found in the search strategy is a <u>shared</u> resource having a type identical with a corresponding <u>shared</u> resource in the set of <u>shared</u> resources but a later version number, replacing the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource with the missing <u>shared</u> resource only when the missing <u>shared</u> resource is upwardly compatible with the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource.
  - 10. (amended) The method of claim 1 including further the steps of:
- (d) determining upward compatibility between different version numbers of shared resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a shared resource



with a later version number fully supports the features of a shared resource of an earlier version number;

- (e) linking the information about the compatibility to the shared resources;
- (f) when a missing <u>shared</u> resource found in the search strategy is a <u>shared</u> resource having a type identical with a corresponding <u>shared</u> resource in the set of <u>shared</u> resources but an earlier version number, using the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource instead of the missing <u>shared</u> resource only when the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource is upwardly compatible with the missing <u>shared</u> resource.
- 11. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of <u>shared</u> resources is determined by a program searching the multi-component electronic device prior to step (c).
- 12. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of <u>shared</u> resources is listed in an available <u>shared</u> resource table in the multi-component electronic device and wherein step (c) compares the required <u>shared</u> resource list with the available <u>shared</u> resource table.
- 13. (amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the available <u>shared</u> resource table is generated at least in part by manual entry of the <u>shared</u> resource.
- 14. (amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the available <u>shared</u> resource table is generated by the step of a program searching the multi-component electronic device.
- 15. (amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the available <u>shared</u> resource table is generated as components are loaded.
- 16. (amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the available <u>shared</u> resource table includes a listing of components using each <u>shared</u> resource.
  - 17. (amended) The method of claim 16 including the step of:
- (d) adding a <u>shared</u> resource to the available <u>shared</u> resource table in the listing of components using each <u>shared</u> resource for the <u>shared</u> resources of the required <u>shared</u> resource list.





- 18. (amended) The method of claim 16 further including the steps of:
- (e) accepting a component deletion instruction;
- (f) deleting the component from the multi-component electronic device;
- (g) reviewing the available <u>shared</u> resource table to find all the <u>shared</u> resources associated with the component; and
- (h) deleting all <u>shared</u> resources identified in the step (f) unless the available <u>shared</u> resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the shared resource.
  - 19. (amended) The method of claim 18 including the step of:
- (i) deleting the <u>shared</u> resource from all listing of components associated with <u>shared</u> resources of the available <u>shared</u> resource table.
- 20. (amended): The method of claim 19 further including the step of (j) notifying the user of <u>shared</u> resources identified in the step (f) wherein the available <u>shared</u> resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the <u>shared</u> resource.
  - 21. (amended) A multi-component electronic system comprising:
- a multi-component device providing a set of <u>shared</u> resources having types and version numbers, the method comprising the steps of:
- a component suitable for the multi-component device and having a link to a required <u>shared</u> resource list holding types and version numbers of <u>shared</u> resources required by the component;
  - a loader program executing to:
- (i) compare the required <u>shared</u> resource list of a component with the set of <u>shared</u> resources:
- (ii) when the entire required <u>shared</u> resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of <u>shared</u> resources, allowing addition of the component to the multi-component electronic device; and
- (iii) when less than the entire required <u>shared</u> resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of <u>shared</u> resources, determining the types and version numbers of the missing <u>shared</u> resources and searching for the missing <u>shared</u> resources

according to a predefined search strategy and installing the missing shared resources on the multi-component electronic device.

- 22. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the component is selected from a group consisting of: a hardware components including hardware and files, and resources including files only.
- 23. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the loader program further provides a notification to the user of the type and version of the missing shared resources not found.
- 24. (amended) The method of claim-3 21 wherein the shared resources are selected from a group consisting of: hardware shared resources including hardware and files, and software shared resources including files only.
- 25. (previously presented) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the predefined search strategy begins the search with a directory of a source of the component.
- 26. (previously presented) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the predefined search strategy includes searching at least one predetermined Internet location.
- 27. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein when a missing shared resource found in the search strategy is a shared resource having a type but not a version identical with a corresponding shared resource in the set of shared resources, the loader program adds the missing shared resource to the multi-component electronic device without removing the corresponding shared resource.
- 28. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 27 wherein the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource is in a common directory and the new <u>shared</u> resource is placed in a directory unique to the <u>shared</u> resource.
- 29. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the shared resources link to information about upward compatibility between different version numbers of shared resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that



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a <u>shared</u> resource of a later version number fully supports the features of a <u>shared</u> resource with an earlier version number;

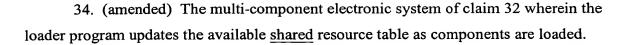
and wherein when a missing <u>shared</u> resource found by the loader program in the search strategy is a <u>shared</u> resource having a type identical with a corresponding <u>shared</u> resource in the set of <u>shared</u> resources but a later version number, the loader program replaces the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource with the missing <u>shared</u> resource only when the missing <u>shared</u> resource is upwardly compatible with the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource.

30. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the shared resources link to information about upward compatibility between different version numbers of shared resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a shared resource with a later version number fully supports the features of a shared resource of an earlier version number;

and wherein when a missing <u>shared</u> resource found by the loader program in the search strategy is a <u>shared</u> resource having a type identical with a corresponding <u>shared</u> resource in the set of <u>shared</u> resources but an earlier version number, the loader program uses the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource instead of the missing <u>shared</u> resource only when the corresponding <u>shared</u> resource is upwardly compatible with the missing <u>shared</u> resource.

- 31. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the loader program searches the multi-component electronic device to determine the set of shared resources.
- 32. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the set of <u>shared</u> resources is listed in an available <u>shared</u> resource table in the multi-component electronic device and wherein the loader program compares the required shared resource list with the available shared resource table.
- 33. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 32 wherein the available <u>shared</u> resource table is generated at least in part by manual entry of the <u>shared</u> resource.





- 35. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 32 wherein the available <u>shared</u> resource table includes a listing of components using each <u>shared</u> resource.
- 36. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 35 wherein the loader program adds a <u>shared</u> resource to the available <u>shared</u> resource table in the listing of components using each <u>shared</u> resource for the <u>shared</u> resources of the required <u>shared</u> resource list.
- 37. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 35 wherein the loader program further:
  - (iv) accepts a component deletion instruction;
  - (v) deletes the component from the multi-component electronic device;
- (vi) reviews the available <u>shared</u> resource table to find all the <u>shared</u> resources associated with the component; and
- (vii) deletes all <u>shared</u> resources identified in the step (vi) unless the available <u>shared</u> resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the <u>shared</u> resource.
- 38. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 37 wherein the loader program further deletes the <u>shared</u> resource from all listing of components associated with <u>shared</u> resources of the available <u>shared</u> resource table.
- 39. (amended) The multi-component electronic system of claim 38 wherein the loader program further notifies the user of <u>shared</u> resources identified in the step (vi) wherein the available <u>shared</u> resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the shared resource.

